

5-1-2013

Phoenix, 2013-05-01

Student Life

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Student Life, Phoenix (2013, May 1). <http://opus.govst.edu/phoenix/147>

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the PHOENIX

The Student Newspaper of Governors State University

Vol: 13 | Iss: 12

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**A class of 2013
graduate reflects**
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FDR comes to CPA
Review pg 6



Transformations
a smash hit
Review pg 6

GSU ARCHIVES



Photo courtesy of ncsasports.org

Sports teams gearing up at GSU

By Jonathon Hutchinson
Contributing Writer

The Governors State University softball team's preparations are well underway as they continue practicing for a great season. The team consists of all GSU students, and they are an all-male team consisting of twelve members each.

While there is currently no woman's team, Dean Jennings, assistant program director for Student Life, said, "That doesn't necessarily mean we won't

sometime in the future....Certainly if there's enough females (interested) on campus we would accommodate them."

For the spring/summer season they'll be playing with a local park district. The fall season is as of yet to be determined.

Jennings said, "If you're a GSU student not currently on the roster, and you'd like to join the club, although you can't currently be on the roster, you are still welcome to join in on the activities and practices."

While the team is not

intramural, some of the GSU's other sports clubs operate intramurally. There are several other existing sports teams and clubs and more in the works GSU. Some compete formally with other schools and some play just for fun.

In addition to the softball team, GSU has a collegiate table tennis team, bowling club, and soccer club. The first outing of the GSU golf club will take place May 16. Basketball and volleyball

Continued on pg 5

Higher Learning Commission visits GSU

By Samantha Kaspar
Staff Writer

Governor's State University is committed to continuous improvement, and this April a visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) proved that dedication pays off. The HLC is the regional accrediting arm of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which approves universities to offer degrees. Although they typically visit every 10 years, their last visit to GSU was in 2009. At the 2009 visit, HLC officials offered some suggestions for the university to improve upon.

According to Associate Provost Dr. Sandra Mayfield, these areas included the university's online programs and the assessment of student learning. To approve these areas, the HLC granted GSU permission to add online programs that were not available before.

Now, these programs are assessed to make sure that students in the online courses are learning comparably to those in the classroom.

As for assessment improvements, Mayfield says GSU applied to become a member of an assessment academy of the HLC to help the institution develop a student assessment program. They also established an institution effectiveness committee to assess the entire student experience, not just the academics.

"The IEC looks at how effective we are in offering student support services, how effective we are in getting students their financial aid when they need it," said Mayfield "They look at the things that aren't necessarily academic, but are necessary for students to move through the university."

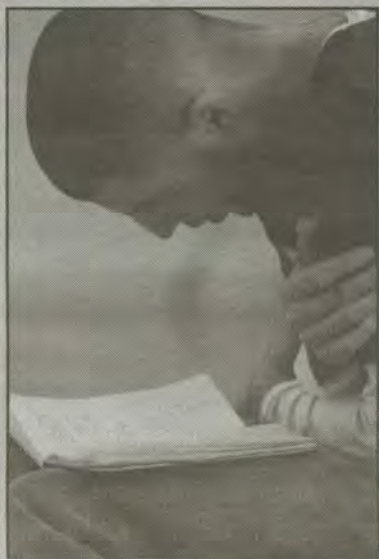
The April 15 and 16 visit included interviews with students

and staff. The HLC was pleased with the university's progress. GSU received a favorable exit report, and is expecting a detailed report in the next few weeks. The HLC also evaluated the university's preparations for the incoming freshmen, and received approval to move forward.

"The HLC wants to see continuous improvement," said Mayfield "We still have things to do but we're working in the right direction."

Students and faculty can also submit their suggestions for improvements through the GSU website. By visiting www.govst.edu/whynot, university members are able to describe problems they see and offer suggestions to improve them.

"All those suggestions are important because they feed into us all working together to try to make things better," said Mayfield.



Do you like to write?

If you have an interest in writing, journalism, or design, the *Phoenix* has a place for you!

The *Phoenix* Student Newspaper is looking for student contributors to help in making the *Phoenix* a success.

If you are interested, please contact the *Phoenix* office at **708-534-4517** or **phoenix@govst.edu**.

the PHOENIX

The *Phoenix* is Governors State University's student newspaper. It is published twice monthly during the fall and winter, and monthly during the spring/summer.

We welcome articles, suggestions, photos, commentary, cartoons, and letters to the editor on issues that concern you or the greater GSU population.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, legality, and interest to our GSU readership.

All submissions should be signed, and include the student, faculty, or staff member's ID number, department, and phone number.

Phoenix Student Newspaper

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Phoenix Editor-in-Chief Melissa Hall

It's hard to believe, but the end of another semester is nearly here! I'm not sure about all of you, but I am very much looking forward to summer!

The end of the spring semester is a time of transition. Some of us are preparing for summer courses. Others are planning on taking the summer off from school. Then there are those of us who have endured the trials and tribulations of college and are graduating.

Graduation is an exciting time. It is a time of hope and optimism for the future. It doesn't matter if you are a traditional college student, or an adult learner. The achievement of finally getting the degree you worked so hard for is the apex of the "college experience" no matter who you are!

I hope each and every GSU student who is graduating this spring will truly revel in their accomplishment. After all, pursuing a college education is not easy! All college students know it takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice to earn a college degree. The end result, however, is certainly worth it. Graduation is a momentous occasion that deserves to be celebrated vigorously!

Saluting the class of 2013

Graduation is also, however, a time of uncertainty. While some may be lucky enough to either already have jobs lined up, or jobs that they can now advance in because of their degrees, many college graduates face an uncertain job market that is still recovering from the recession. The sad reality is, job competition is stiffer than ever these days, and a college degree isn't the golden ticket that it was just a few years ago.

In spite of all this, however, a college degree is worth it. While it may not be the slam dunk for financial security that it once was, those who have degrees are in a much better position for success than those who don't. The intangible benefits of a college education have a profound effect on us, whether we realize it or not. College in numerous ways helps us to grow and become better people. The benefits go far beyond how much money we can make in our careers. We become more knowledgeable, well-rounded people because of our education. We learn the value of hard work, develop critical thinking skills, and gain many professional and social contacts that wouldn't be available to us otherwise. These are just a few of the countless benefits of a college education.

To those who are graduating this semester, I encourage each of you to think back to the person you were before you started your college journey, and compare that person to who you've become. Think about all you have accomplished, as well as how much you have grown as a person during that time. Getting a college degree is not

an easy accomplishment!

Before I say goodbye until the summer, I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this a successful semester for the *Phoenix*. I would first like to thank the *Phoenix* faculty advisor, Victoria Pierce, for all of her guidance and support. I would also like to thank Samantha Kaspar, the *Phoenix* Staff Writer, and Andrea Florenz, the *Phoenix* Business Manager. Both of these women have done an amazing job this semester! I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Corrie Gray. Although she is no longer with the *Phoenix*, Corrie contributed for two years as Staff Writer before taking the role of Associate Editor for the Fall 2012 semester and much of the Spring 2013 semester. Good luck to Corrie in her future endeavors!

I would also like to thank all of the students who have contributed to the *Phoenix* this semester. We have received so many excellent contributions from GSU students this semester. It has been a joy to share the work of our contributing writers with the GSU community. The *Phoenix* becomes a better publication when we receive stories about GSU, written by GSU students. Thank you to all of our contributing writers!

Congratulations to the GSU class of 2013! So long for now!

Melissa Hall

Phoenix Editor-in-Chief

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We Want YOU!

The Phoenix is now hiring!

The Phoenix is currently hiring for the position of Associate Editor.

The Associate Editor will be responsible for working with the Editor-in-Chief on writing, editing and layout of *The Phoenix*.

The ideal candidate will have excellent communication and organizational skills, the ability to meet deadlines, a sense of curiosity, and be familiar with news writing style. Candidates with previous experience in student journalism or who have taken journalism/media classes are preferred.

This position pays a student stipend and will provide the candidate with invaluable work experience. All staff members of *The Phoenix* must be enrolled in at least six hours at Governor's State University.

If you would like to take advantage of this amazing opportunity, please stop by *The Phoenix* newsroom in room E1500 on Tuesday from 6-7:30pm, Wednesday from 4:30-7:30pm, or email us at phoenix@govst.edu

Reflections of a graduate



By Ryan O'Neill
Contributing Writer

As this semester comes to a close, a new chapter in my life will begin. I will be a college graduate. After two quick years at GSU, I am earning my Bachelor's degree in Communications. That was easy part. Even more challenging than the 100 plus written assignments, exams, and presentations I've completed in two years could be finding a career I can truly say I enjoy.

Off the top of my head, I know a degree in Communications can help me get into the fields of journalism, advertising and public relations. More than likely I'll look for a job that is related to those because I like to write. I've been told since I was young that I should take up journalism because of my writing and work ethic. I would love to get my feet wet in a career related to communications within three months or less once I graduate but there are no guarantees. In today's job market, landing a job right after graduation is not likely for a lot of college graduates. That is why I have to be realistic with my goals. I cannot expect a job upon graduation but I must stay persistent.

I do see myself eventually attending graduate school to obtain a Master's

Degree in Communications in the future. I have also been open to the possibility of earning another Bachelor's degree in a field other than Communications. I'm also interested in Computer Science, Criminal Justice and History. I believe that you are never too old to achieve an education. An educated mind is invaluable.

I want to take a couple weeks in May to relax, reflect, and take a long look into what I want to do next. I don't want to thrust myself into a panic of not finding a job right after graduation. It is important to stay patient and understand it is a process. I know I have the qualities and determination to find a job. I will update my résumé and then apply to different public relations, advertising and newspaper companies within and outside the Chicago area.

I'm excited and relieved to be done with school. It is a great feeling to finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. All the hard work and long nights writing and studying has finally paid off. I won't forget those nights as they will always be a part of how I got here. I met some great people at GSU. From the professors I've had to my peers I can say they were some of the nicest, most down-to-earth people I have ever met. It is refreshing to know that good hard working people are out there and I wish them the best in their endeavors.

The great unknown of being a college graduate can be intimidating if you don't know the next step in your journey. I see it as an opening to countless possibilities and opportunities. This is a big moment in my life as I decide what path I will take. Whatever path I do decide to take, as long as I'm pointed in the right direction I will find my way.

The closing of one chapter



The 2013 spring semester is now coming to an end. After all of the studying, group projects, papers, presentations, finals, and one of the rainiest springs that Chicagoland has ever seen, the days of summer couldn't come any sooner.

Some GSU students, including myself, will be spending the summertime taking a break from classes and recharging before coming back in the fall semester. It's nice to have a period of relaxation or to simply have some fun to unload stress. Just remember to keep your focus and drive intact so that when you come back to school you hit the ground running. Other students will utilize the summer courses offered at GSU to tackle new subject material in order to get closer to receiving their degree in the shortest amount of time.

There are some GSU students, however, who will have the most extraordinary summer experience of all of us. There is nothing like the feeling of achievement and starting a new chapter in life.

For those of you who will be walking across the stage that signifies the accomplishment of completing the curriculum required to practice in your field as a professional (or graduation as some call it) to you I offer the deepest congratulations. I believe that education is one of the few things that can offer true freedom, peace, and prosperity to the members of our society. The pursuit of education enables individuals to provide for themselves and their families, to challenge processes in order to improve them, and to widen their breadth of overall knowledge. Those who make the commitment and earn their Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate's inspire others to follow in their footsteps. GSU graduates of 2013, I not only congratulate you, but I also offer my gratitude for doing your part and changing the world – through one person at a time.

As finals approach and stress levels begin to rise, try to keep in mind that we are all coming to a close of one chapter, and embarking upon the beginning of a new one. If you really think about it, those are always the best moments in the story.

Kayla Randolph-Clark
GSU Student Senate
Representative

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What Say U, GSU?

What are you doing this summer?



"I'm going to be in school taking print making and art history and professional development classes, 12 hours."

April Grammer



"Hopefully interning at Kartemquin, a film studio or interning for Playstation."

Daniel Christain



"I will be taking summer classes to get ahead in my studies."

Lloyd Peterson



"I will be at home and am planning on taking the ACT test this summer."

Sondra Ewers

Forum discusses solutions to violence

By Maria Ramirez
Contributing Writer

Every year, more young people are killed in the city of Chicago than any other city in the country. Because of this, communities are discussing ways to end youth violence.

The Area P District 6450 Rotary Clubs, in conjunction with GSU students, sponsored the event, "Overcoming Violence, Creating an Era of Peace." This event took place April 25th in Sherman Hall. There were several presentations such as "A Viewpoint from Our Youth," "What You Should Know About Gangs in Your Community," and "Strategic & Holistic Strategies to End Youth Violence," to name a few. There was also a feature performance by *Lyric*. Cook County State Attorney, Anita Alvarez, was the keynote speaker for the day.

In her speech, Alvarez discussed the impact of restorative justice and its importance it has in schools, as well as in communities. Restorative justice is an effective approach that involves the victim, the offender, and the affected community members. Restorative justice helps dealing with crime or inappropriate behavior by helping to identify and address issues, so there can be a solution and healing, for both, victim and offender. According to Alvarez, Restorative justice has been an effective strategy in schools because it helps young people, instead of negatively impacting them for the rest of their lives.

Another technique that has been beneficial and essential to reducing

violence is peacemaking circles. In this process, people are brought together to better understand each another to build and strengthen relationships and community, along with solving problems in a safe and productive manner.

Besides discussing current successful strategies to decrease adolescent violent behavior, Alvarez stressed the importance of having an education. This was specifically addressed mostly to a crowd of 6th graders in the audience. Alvarez said, "Education is the key to success, it takes you places."

"Education is the key to success, it takes you places."

In addition, she expressed that it is of great importance to make the right choices. Choices have a great impact on ones future. Therefore, making good decisions helps people to have courage to persist towards their goals. Several times throughout her speech, Alvarez pointed to some of her personal experiences such as being the first Latina to have the title of State Attorney. She spoke about the challenges she faced being both a woman and a Latina in her candidacy for her present position. Many of the people in the audience seemed to be impressed with her story; she was a source of inspiration for some of them.

Sports teams *Continued from pg 1*

clubs will also be coming this September. While there are plans to add competitive programs, GSU is also looking to expand current clubs. Cross-Country and women's softball are programs that Jennings would like to see in the future, and he is very interested in GSU students participating in the programs.

The Bowling Team has just completed its first year, and begins again in the fall. The bowling club advisor is Anne Manning-Nagel. The bowling club met on Fridays in Richton Park at Lakewood Bowl. Over a dozen students participated in the bowling club. The GSU pick-up

basketball club has existed for years and is pretty popular. The table tennis team has had success lately, as they were ranked fourth as recently as their 2010 season.

So if you want to get active, meet fellow students and have some fun, contact Dean Jennings for more information at djennings@govst.edu or call him at 708-534-4945.

The Pulse

Asner brings FDR to life at CPA



Television legend Ed Asner portrays President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his one man show, *FDR*. Photo courtesy of flashalertnewswire.net

By Melissa Hall
Phoenix Editor-in-Chief

GSU's Center for Performing Arts recently hosted television legend Ed Asner and his one man show, *FDR*. Those who attended the show were treated to an evening of theater at its

finest.

In *FDR*, which played at the CPA for one night only on April 17, Asner brings President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to life. The play offered an intimate look at Roosevelt's battle with polio, as well as his private life (including his marriage to Eleanor Roosevelt). The play also showed the audience a glimpse at two of America's most difficult moments- the Great Depression and World War II- through the eyes of the President that led the country during those trying times.

Asner's performance as Roosevelt was powerful, emotional, and unforgettable. He played the former President with a sense of honesty, humanity, and even a bit of humor. While there were many moments in the show that were genuinely funny, there were many more moments that were poignant.

Although Asner was brilliant throughout, he was at his best when Roosevelt received the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by the Japanese. Asner's performance, especially during this scene, was so emotionally charged that it was easy to forget that it was Asner on stage and not Roosevelt himself. His performance overall was nothing short of masterful.

Asner is best known for his roles on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, the miniseries *Roots*,

Asner's performance as Roosevelt was powerful, emotional, and unforgettable. He played the former President with a sense of honesty, humanity, and even a bit of humor.

as well as for motion pictures such as *JFK*, *Elf*, and *Up!* Asner has over 100 television credits to his name. He has also received several awards during his life, including seven Emmy Awards and five Golden Globes. The 83 year-old actor's illustrious career has spanned seven decades.

Transformations draws full house for both showings



Back row: Cherish Brown, Keyana Marshall, Kimberly Hudson, Deirdre Webb
Front row: Keisha T. Dyson, Lynne Clayton, Roshaunda Ross-Orta. Picture courtesy of Gerald Slowik

By Andrew Kriz
Contributing Writer

Childhood bed time stories will never be the same again after seeing *Transformations*.

Transformations retells classics in a twisted light such as *Snow White*, *Rapunzel*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Sleeping Beauty* and many more during Anne Sexton's poetry turned theatrical production.

For Governors State University the Grimm's play is another leap forward as the school undergoes a massive renaissance of ideas. It marked a significant achievement as it was the first production in the university's 44-year history to be put on stage by students and comprised an all student cast.

Cast members include Cherish Brown of Chicago; Lynne Clayton of Park Forest; Keisha Dyson of Chicago; Kimberly Hudson of Park Forest; Keyana Marshall of Chicago; Roshaunda Ross-Orta of

Homewood; and Deirdre Webb of Richton Park.

Their endeavor paid off at their April 24 opening of a two-night run which drew a full crowd for both performances at the Center for Performing Arts. Those who attended gave them a standing ovation at the curtain call.

The seven member cast was all female and Dr. Patrick Santoro, an Assistant Professor of Communications, Visual And Performing Arts at GSU directed the performance. The actresses dressed in plain white clothes as the original script took place in a mental hospital as the patients acted out the haunting scenes.

Sexton ordered her 10-part opera to emphasize her persona, a witch, which gradually turns into an innocent victim trapped in a nightmare of her own mental state.

Those who attended gave them a standing ovation at the curtain call

During the opening monologue children are not mentioned despite fairy tales usually focusing on young ones; instead she addresses the audience as the one's searching for answers in the stories.

Snow White lead off as the first story giving the audience the mental image of a young, beautiful girl drawing the ire of her stepmother's jealousy and becoming the victim of failed murder attempts as the mirror drives the stepmother to become the fairest of the land once *Snow White* is killed.

By the end of the poem *Snow White* has turned into her stepmother who was also corrupted by the mirror. From there the play follows a winding road of increasing confusion, insanity, and cannibalism that reflects Sexton's spiral into depression.

Sexton's work presents a strong critique of marriage as it refers to the binding as a "deathly stasis" and she shares her past where she was sexually abused by her father through her alterations to the tales.

WHAT'S UP

5 | 1 | 13

7

Student reflects on NCUR experience

By Greg Dole
Contributing Writer

I had the privilege of receiving sponsorship from Governors State University to attend the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), held on April 11 through 13, 2013. Before sharing lessons learned and experiences shared, I must first express my gratitude to Dr. Terry Allison and Dr. Larry Levinson whom encouraged students to submit an abstract, develop project research skills, and participate in an event which promotes sharing amongst diverse students who are passionate about learning.

Starting conversations with other students was easy with obvious ice-breaking questions such as, "What topic will you be presenting? What is your study major? Which school and state are you from?" Because of this, people already knew which school and state that I was from. I am in the BHA program and my presentation topic was entitled, "The ABCs of ACOs aka Accountable Care Organization."

I presented my topic on April 11 at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse's (UW-L) Centennial Hall. I was in a session with three other students that presented on health sciences and public health topics. My previous Power Point presentation experience in coursework had been to deliver an occasional five minute speech in a group project. My research provided fifteen minutes of material for the oral presentation and sufficient background knowledge to feel comfortable answering questions. I relied on my written report as a crutch during my presentation more than I had planned. I have not yet developed the ability to speak with the same conversational flow as the other three presenters who spoke as university instructors on their topics. I believe

while my presentation was a personal best, there is still has plenty of room for improvement.

Centennial Hall first opened for classes in 2011 with brightly lit classrooms that easily seat 60 students. I saw a professor holding class in an auditorium about the size of Sherman Hall. A projection screen measuring perhaps 10 by 15 feet provided visual instruction for human kidney anatomy. UW-L students serving as NCUR volunteers, faculty moderators, and presenters appeared to buzz with energy and excitement. While exploring Centennial Hall before my presentation, I saw a sign extending an open invitation to a relaxation room with stress relieving chairs as a quiet escape from coursework rigors. I located the office which reminded me of the small waiting area in a dentist office. The receptionist confirmed I was in the right location but the advertised amenities are supported by student activity fees and reserved for UW-L students. Perhaps a relaxation room could be added to the GSU wish list.

Poster presentations were held in the center of the gymnasium in Mitchell Hall. Around the perimeter and circling the poster displays were tables of representatives from an estimated 100 universities providing graduate program brochures. As I was sight-seeing, I spoke with an admissions representative from Northern Illinois University and mentioned I am originally from Rockford. I learned through during conversation the admissions rep is related to some of my classmates from elementary through high school.

This reflection of my experience at the NCUR is currently over 500 words, and I could gladly write much more about this experience. My sincere thank you goes to GSU for promoting and supporting creativity in learning.



Find us online at
www.gsuphoenix.com!

Sudoku solutions from pg 8

2	5	7	3	9	6	1	4	8
6	8	1	7	4	2	3	9	5
9	4	3	8	5	1	2	6	7
3	9	4	1	8	7	6	5	2
8	1	2	6	3	5	9	7	4
7	6	5	4	2	9	8	1	3
1	2	6	5	7	8	4	3	9
5	3	8	9	1	4	7	2	6
4	7	9	2	6	3	5	8	1

Crossword solutions from pg 8

A	L	A	E		D	I	G	I	T		A	B	A	S
S	O	R	T		A	D	O	R	N		N	O	V	A
S	W	E	E	T	H	E	A	R	T		G	A	I	T
E	E	N		E	L	A	T	E		H	O	R	D	E
T	R	A	V	A	I	L		G	O	U	R	D		
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A	D	O	R	E		T	E	L	L	S		O	D	D
N	A	R	Y		F	O	R	A	Y		B	O	D	E
A	M	I		A	L	T	A	R		L	E	M	O	N
L	E	G	A	L	I	T	Y		D	I	E			
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M	A	N	O	R		R	A	I	S	E		R	A	T
U	N	A	U		S	I	L	V	E	R	F	I	S	H
C	O	T	S		S	N	E	E	R		A	N	T	E
K	N	E	E		E	G	E	S	T		D	E	E	R

GSU Happenings

Stuenkel Road
Rail Crossing Closed
April 29 - May 4

Celebrate Spring
Choir Concert
by GSU choral classes
May 4
3 p.m.

Gay Straight Alliance
Meetings Every Tuesday
730pm
Room E2590.

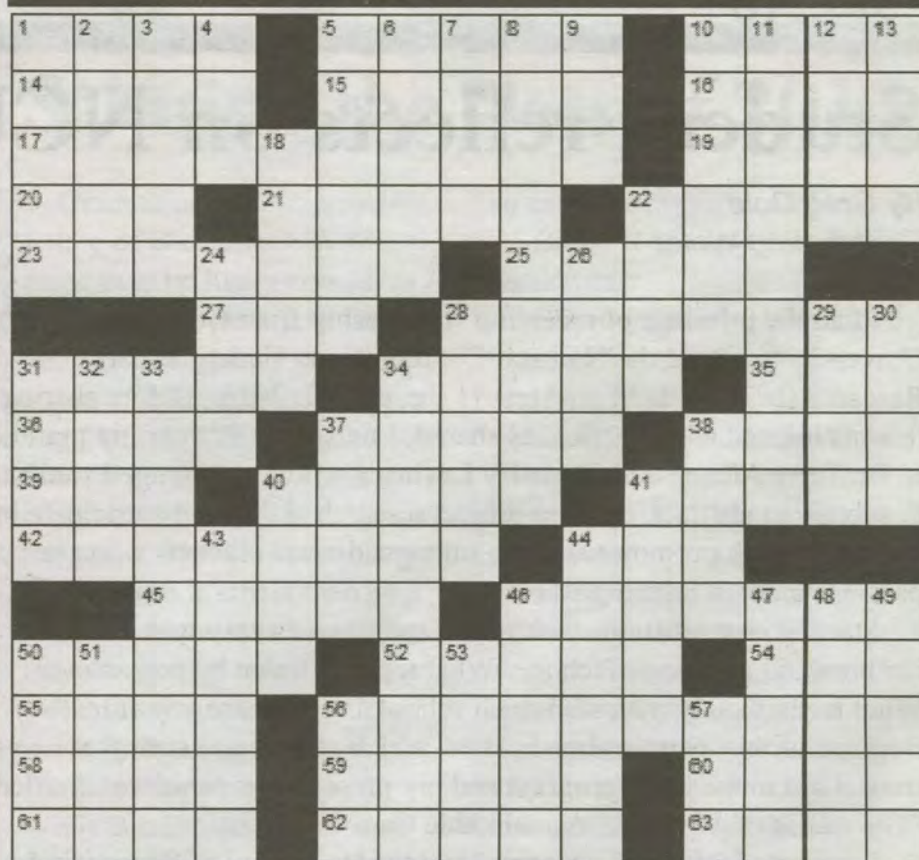
"The Millennial Student"
Darcie Campos
May 22
10 a.m.
B2203

GSU Golf League
Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.
University Golf Course

Book discussion
"Generation on a Tightrope"
May 29
10 a.m.
Café Annex Hall

Civil Service Senate
Spring Open Market
May 2, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Hall of Governors

Crossword



ACROSS

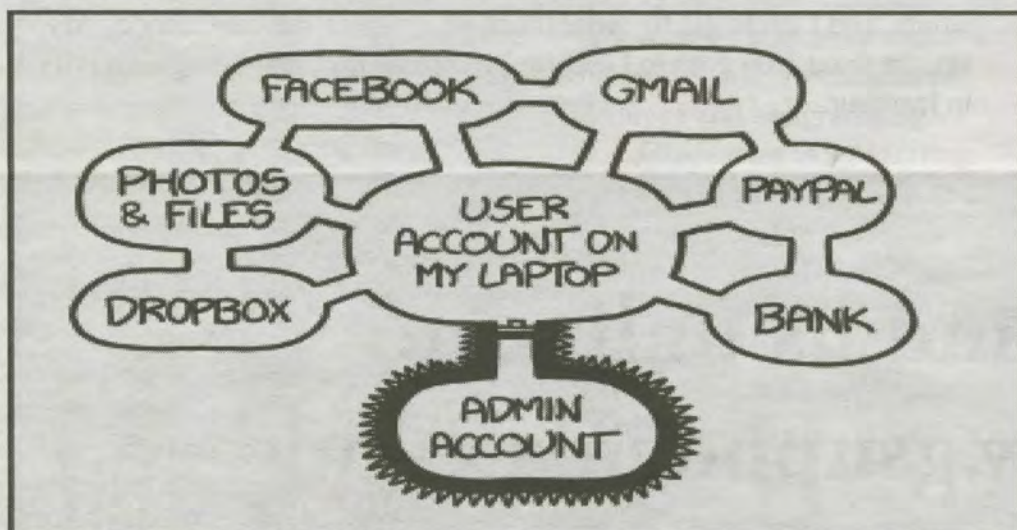
1. Wings
5. Finger or toe
10. Garments of goat hair
14. Classify
15. Beautify
16. Exploded star
17. Valentine
19. Pace
20. Poetic dusk
21. Gladden
22. Mob
23. Toil
25. Calabash
27. An Old Testament king
28. Denim
31. Love intensely
34. Informs
35. Eccentric
36. Not
37. A sudden short attack
38. Portend
39. French for "Friend"
40. Communion table
41. A tart fruit
42. Lawfulness
44. Perish

DOWN

45. Angry
46. An informal term for money
50. Country estate
52. Lift
54. Rodent
55. Two-toed sloth
56. Silver-grey wingless insect
58. Camp beds
59. Contemptuous look
60. Initial wager
61. Leg joint
62. Excrete
63. Bambi was one
12. Keen
13. Satisfy
18. Make fun of
22. Embraces
24. Deviate
26. Unique
28. Disorderly revelry
29. Cocoyam
30. Biblical garden
31. A Freudian stage
32. British title
33. Come into being
34. Unsteady in gait
37. Flutter
38. Red vegetable
40. Winglike
41. About a US quart
43. Excite
44. Abandon
46. Inhabits
47. Pee
48. Hindu social division
49. Aromatic solvent
50. Mire
51. Nameless
53. Away from the wind
56. South southeast
57. Craze

Comics

XKCD: Authorization



IF SOMEONE STEALS MY LAPTOP WHILE I'M LOGGED IN, THEY CAN READ MY EMAIL, TAKE MY MONEY, AND IMPERSONATE ME TO MY FRIENDS, BUT AT LEAST THEY CAN'T INSTALL DRIVERS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

"XKCD" is a webcomic "of romance, sarcasm, math, and language" run by Randall Munroe. To read the latest, head to xkcd.com

PHD: Procrasination



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PHD ("Piled Higher & Deeper"), a comic about being a graduate student, is by Jorge Cham. Updates occur about twice per week. To read more comics, head www.PHDcomics.com

Sudoku

